

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley

April 21, 2023



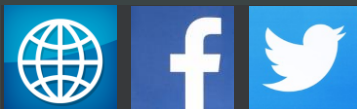
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Monroe County District Attorney's Office

Weekly Newsletter



Welcome to the weekly newsletter from Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley.

Message from Sandra Doorley

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

Sunday, April 23 – Saturday, April 29, is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. This is important because time and time again, victims are often forgotten members of the criminal justice system.

I joined the Monroe County District Attorney's Office 31 years ago to use my law degree to give back to the community. Once I joined this career in public service, my passion truly became giving a voice to victims and their families. These individuals are often experiencing the most difficult and traumatic time in their lives. We as a community, need to acknowledge victims' rights.

*The 2023 NCVRW theme is **Survivor Voices: Elevate. Engage. Effect Change.** This year's theme calls upon communities to amplify the voices of survivors and create environments where survivors have the confidence that they will be heard, believed, and supported.*

The Coalition for Crime Victims of Monroe County helps to remind us that this week is dedicated to helping crime survivors find their justice by enforcing victims' rights, expanding access to services, and ensuring equity and inclusion for all. This week is an annual opportunity for the Greater Rochester Community to join our colleagues around the nation in remembering victims of crime and supporting families who have lost loved ones.

Survivors of crime often experience physical, emotional, and financial trauma as a result of their victimization. Here at the Monroe County District Attorney's Office, Carrie Noble leads our phenomenal team of victim and witness advocates. Our Victim/Witness Bureau employs five advocates and one clerk to help give victims and their families the knowledge of what to expect in the complex and ever-changing criminal justice system. Arriving to court as a victim or a member of their family is often intimidating and this team will prepare, meet, and even attend court with these individuals to make the process as clear as possible.

Homicide Update

So far in 2023:

City of Rochester Total:
12

Monroe County Total: 15

These impressive advocates help to provide the necessary support to victims and witnesses of crime. This can include working with the Coalition for Crime Victims for referrals, providing case information, explaining the process of their criminal case, compensation applications, restitution and request forms, and even parole information after the case has concluded in Monroe County.

For more information on resources available for victims, visit <https://www.monroecounty.gov/da-assistance> and for more information on The Coalition for Crime Victims of Monroe County, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/coalitionforcrimevictimsofmonroecounty>.

While some agencies and policies do not prioritize victims' rights, the attorneys and staff at the Monroe County District Attorney's Office will always consider the victims in this community.

Sandra



Highlights from the MCDA's Office

32-year-old **Orlando Velazquez** was convicted of Robbery in the 1st Degree by New York State Supreme Court Justice Argento following a bench trial. Orlando Velazquez was armed with a knife when he committed a robbery of an individual around 8:30AM on September 5, 2022 on Monroe Avenue near Meigs Street in the City of Rochester. Mr. Velazquez will be sentenced as a persistent violent felony offender on May 18, 2023, in front of Justice Argento. He faces up to 25 years to life in New York State Department of Corrections. This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Greg Clark, of the Major Felony Bureau.

38-year-old **Tyrone Keitt** was convicted of two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree and Endangering the Welfare of a Child by Monroe County Court Judge Dollinger following a bench trial. On February 8, 2022, Tyrone Keitt illegally possessed a loaded firearm and fled from police while his 6 week old child was in the backseat of the car. He will be sentenced as a persistent violent felony offender on May 24, 2023, in front of Judge Dollinger. He faces up to 16 years to life in the New York State Department of Corrections. This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Kennedy and Assistant District Attorney Bridget Morgan, both of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Criminal Youth Part and Family Court Judge Stacey Romeo sentenced 16-year-old **Adriel Riley** to 15 years to Life in the New York State Department of Corrections for the murder of Steven Amenhauser on March 12, 2021. Based on the defendant's age, this is the maximum sentence allowed by law. Adriel Riley was previously convicted of Murder in the Second Degree for the murder. On March 12, 2021, Rochester Police Officers, Rochester Firefighters, and Emergency Medical Responders were called to Lyell Avenue where 53-year-old Steven Amenhauser, who was sitting on a chair inside his apartment, had been doused in flammable liquid and was lit on fire. The victim then ran outside, when bystanders put out that fire. He was then transported to Strong Memorial Hospital by the first responders. Steven Amenhauser died three days later, with burns over 70% of his body, including 3rd Degree burns. **Zayvion Perry**, who was 16 years old at the time, and Adriel Riley, who was 14 years old at the time, were arrested for Steven Amenhauser's death. On January 27, 2023, 18-year-old Zayvion pled guilty to Manslaughter in the 1st Degree for his role in Steven Amenhauser's death. He was sentenced to 25 years in the New York State Department of Corrections on Monday, March 27. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Rachel Clark, Deputy Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau, and Assistant District Attorney Matthew Schiano, of the Youth Part/Major Felony Bureau.

On Thursday, April 20, 32 year-old **Timothy Thomas** was sentenced by New York State Supreme Court Justice Argento to 20 years in the New York State Department of Corrections plus 5 years of post-release supervision for causing the shooting death of Orlando Santiago on Hudson Avenue in the City of Rochester on May 29, 2022. This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Christopher Bokelman, Chief of the Public Integrity/Economic Crimes Bureau.

43-year-old **Timothy C. Williams** pled guilty to Assault in the 1st Degree for stabbing the mother of his child, causing her serious physical injury. In 1997, Mr. Williams was sentenced to 20 years to Life after being convicted of Murder in the 2nd Degree. After his release from the New York State Department of Corrections in 2019, Mr. Williams was released from parole three years later. On November 10, 2022, Timothy Williams was waiting for his ex-girlfriend, who is also the mother of his child, outside of her home. When Timothy Williams witnessed her walking home on Thorn Street in the City of Rochester, he chased her down and stabbed her in her face and her head. He left the victim bleeding, outside on the street. A neighbor found the victim, covered in blood and immediately called the police. She was immediately transported to Strong Memorial Hospital where she recovered, although has lifelong injuries. After a thorough investigation by the Rochester Police Department, Timothy Williams was arrested for this violent assault. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Patrick Gallagher, Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau. Timothy Williams will be sentenced on June 1, 2023, in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Argento. He will be sentenced to 19 years in the New York State Department of Corrections plus 5 years of post-release supervision.

45-year-old **Lance Mitchel** pled guilty to Manslaughter in the 1st Degree for his role in the 2021 death of his step-father, William Mason. The remains of William Mason were located in a fire pit near his home. Lance Mitchel will be sentenced to 15 years in the New York State Department of Corrections plus 5 years of post-release supervision on May 23, 2023, in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Sinclair. This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Sara Vanstrydonck, Chief of the Special Victims Unit, and Assistant District Attorney Brandon Gonzalez, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

MCDA in the Community

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley presented to the Kodak/L3Harris R&E Retirees Group about the Monroe County District Attorney's Office and the New York State Criminal Justice System. Thank you to all the attendees for your attention and lively discussion!



The Monroe County District Attorney's Vehicular Crimes Bureau attended the annual STOP DWI Awards Luncheon. The attorneys and staff in this bureau work every single day to do their part to ensure that those who commit repeat DWIs and horrific vehicular crimes are held responsible. Congratulations to all of this year's deserving award recipients.



Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley attended this year's annual State of the City Address. Mayor Malik Evans addressed the many public safety concerns in the City of Rochester, while also highlighting why Rochester is great place to live and work. The Monroe County District Attorney's Office looks forward to continuing its important relations with the City of Rochester.



MCDA in the News

<https://13wham.com/news/local/convicted-murderer-released-from-parole-admits-to-stabbing-ex-girlfriend-in-rochester>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/second-teen-convicted-of-setting-fire-to-man-to-be-sentenced/>

<https://www.whec.com/top-news/man-pleads-guilty-to-stabbing-mother-of-his-child-in-rochester/>

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2023/03/01/adriel-riley-convicted-in-death-of-steven-amenhauser-in-rochester-ny/69953661007/>

<https://www.whec.com/top-news/teen-who-set-rochester-man-on-fire-to-be-sentenced/>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/news/top-stories/investigator-reacts-to-mason-case-confession/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/second-teen-sentenced-for-rochester-mans-fiery-death>

<https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/teen-convicted-setting-man-fire-080006192.html>

<https://wham1180.iheart.com/content/2023-04-19-rochester-teen-sentenced-for-setting-man-on-fire-killing-him/>

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2023/04/19/lance-mitchel-pleads-guilty-to-killing-william-mason/70129320007/>

<https://www.whec.com/top-news/stepson-admits-to-killing-parma-man/>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/man-pleads-guilty-to-manslaughter-for-step-fathers-death/>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/man-who-pleaded-guilty-to-fatal-shooting-on-hudson-ave-to-be-sentenced/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/man-admits-killing-stepfather-in-parma-in-2021-pleads-guilty-to-manslaughter>

<https://www.whec.com/top-news/mother-accused-of-beating-her-child-to-death-in-rochester-appears-in-court/>



We are hiring attorneys! If you are a recent law school graduate or an experienced attorney and are interested in a career in criminal law and public service, apply with us today! More information is available on monroecounty.gov/da.